

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 23757 072029Z

73

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 MC-02 L-03 ACDA-19

PRS-01 DRC-01 /107 W

----- 036727

R 071832Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3049

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 23757

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: A) PARIS 13856; B) CAIRO 2583; C) CAIRO 2620

EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THAT CONTRACT SIGNED FOR SALE OF MIRAGES TO SAUDI ARABIA LAST JULY. NONETHELESS, SUCH SALE WAS CLEARLY ENVISAGED DURING KING FEISAL'S VISIT TO PARIS IN MAY (REF A) AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THAT DEAL CONCLUDED IN JULY AS REPORTED BY USINT CAIRO. WE ARE, HOWEVER, SOMEWHAT MORE SKEPTICAL THAT AIRCRAFT WILL BE FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE. ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF, SEPTEMBER 7, THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MODIFICATION IN FRENCH EMBARGO POLICY FOR BATTLEFIELD COUNTRIES, AND CONFIRMED THAT ANY SALES OF ARMS TO SAUDIS WOULD BE COVERED BY RESTRICTION ON TRANSFER TO THIRD COUNTRIES SIMILAR TO THAT IN MIRAGE SALES CONTRACTS WITH LIBYA. CLEARLY THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE SAUDIS TRAINING EGYPTIAN PILOTS ON MIRAGS, NOR INDEED OCCASIONAL OPERATIONAL VISITS TO EGYPTIAN AIRFIELDS, BUT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, AIRCRAFT WILL REMAIN BASED IN SAUDI ARABAIA UNDER AT LEAST NOMINAL SAUDI CONTROL. IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USINT CAIRO.CONFIDENTIAL
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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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To: STATE
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